



## Iowa Smart Planning Task Force Committee Report

**Committee Name:** Comprehensive Planning Committee

**Date:** July 13, 2010

**Co-Chairs:** Les Beck

Rick Hunsaker

### Scope of committee work:

- 1) Develop statewide goals for comprehensive planning that utilize the Iowa Smart Planning Principles and develop recommendations for a process to measure progress toward achieving those goals.
- 2) Review city and county comprehensive plans to determine the number of such plans that address the hazards as listed in the Hazards Element of the suggested local comprehensive plan guidelines and the adequacy of such plans in addressing those hazards.
- 3) Develop a model for regional comprehensive planning for Iowa and recommend partnerships between state agencies, local governments, educational institutions, and research facilities.
- 4) Evaluate and develop incentives to conduct local and regional comprehensive planning, including but not limited to state financial and technical assistance.
- 5) Recommend the means by which technical and financial assistance for comprehensive planning can be provided and administered.

### Please list all members that participated in the work of this committee:

Name	Organization	Email	Phone
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**Please list all staff and outside advisors that participated in the work of this committee:**

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**Please list experts and interest groups that were consulted in the development of the committee's proposals:**

- Land use experts: N/A
- Agricultural and environmental interests: N/A
- Urban and regional planning experts: N/A
- Others: N/A

**Committee Assignments for Next Meeting:**

- Email topics of discussion or possible presenter ideas to staff members (Jenna, Liz, Nichole)
- Recruit non-voting committee members and advisors to attend meetings and offer input

## **Committee Meeting Notes**

### **I. Welcome from Dean Luis Rico-Guiterrez**

The Dean spoke of the symbolism of having the group meet at the college and encouraged the development of relationships to work together on planning as a quality of life issue. He stated that smart planning is not less important in medium and smaller communities and that Ames is the place to talk about communities in part because it is adjacent to some of the most productive landscape in the world. The natural and artificial landscapes interact and overlap. ISU College of Design desires to have a role in the state. He stated that ISU does three things:

- Studies the forces of nature (science)
- Harnesses the forces of nature (technology)
- Deploys the knowledge of the nature for community benefit (design)

He said that their focus is to implement everything we know to find the balance between the natural and artificial landscape.

### **II. Introductions of Committee Members and guests**

### **III. Overview of Committee Tasks and Workgroup Assignments (Les Beck, Rick Hunsaker)**

*(Note: All documents can be found at  
[http://rio.iowa.gov/smart\\_planning/meetings.html](http://rio.iowa.gov/smart_planning/meetings.html) )*

- Timeline review (see “Comprehensive Planning Committee Timeline” document)
  - Aggressive work schedule to have all tasks completed by the beginning of September for the September 15<sup>th</sup> Task Force meeting
  - Possible September meeting to tie-up loose ends (in person or conference call)
  - All meetings are open to the public
- Members are asked to recommend topics or presenters for expert testimony related to the assigned tasks
  - Any suggestions can be emailed to [jenna.anderson@rio.iowa.gov](mailto:jenna.anderson@rio.iowa.gov) , [liz.vanzomeren@rio.iowa.gov](mailto:liz.vanzomeren@rio.iowa.gov) , or Nichole Warren at [iarcdirector@live.net](mailto:iarcdirector@live.net)

- Assigned tasks of each workgroup can be found on the “Committee Structure” document

#### **IV. Discussion of Committee Tasks and Coordination of Shared Tasks Between Workgroups (Les Beck, Rick Hunsaker)**

- Workgroups C and D share tasks identified in the “Scope of Work” section above as #4 and #5- Incentives and Technical Assistance
- These recommendations will be formed at the committee level

#### **V. Brainstorming Session for Evaluating and developing incentives and technical assistance**

- **Overview of Wisconsin’s incentives** (*Gary Taylor*)

Wisconsin has a program in place that sets aside funds for comprehensive planning and a fee structure for a typical plan based on the population/size of the entity. Criteria were established for the necessary plan elements eligible for funding. This program funds up to 50% of the base funding level. For example, if planning is projected to cost \$40,000, the state will fund \$20,000. If the actual cost of planning turns out to be \$30,000 the state will only fund half of that or \$15,000. If the actual cost of planning turns out to be \$60,000, the state will still only fund \$20,000.

- **Other states discussed:**
  - Technical assistance money available in Florida (*Charles Connerly*)
  - Priority funding for communities that have a plan in Maryland (*Charles Connerly*)
  - Wisconsin provides additional funds beyond 50% match for multijurisdictional plans (*Gary Taylor*)
- **Iowa programs that have planning requirements** (*Brian Schoon*)
  - IJOBS and IJOBS2 Smart Planning requirements
  - Community Builder Plan program (1990-97)
- **Types of incentives and assistance needed**
  - Technical assistance especially for small communities that have no planning staff (*Charles Connerly*)

- Centralized data collection and disbursement for those without own resources (*Gary Taylor*)
- Technical assistance money (graphics, production of report, etc.)
- State level coordination of planning efforts and goal-meeting (*Les Beck*)
  - An Office of Planning and Programming (OPP) used to exist in Iowa which served as a coordinating agency for providing technical assistance
- Statewide GIS access (*Gary Taylor*)
- Education on planning process and elements
- Emphasize regional planning through making more funds contingent on partnerships- smart planning doesn't follow political boundaries (*Ruth Randleman*)
  - Added benefit of having pooled resources
- Planning VISTA-type program like University of Oregon's Resource Assistance for Rural Environments –RARE (*Jenna Anderson*)
  - <http://rare.uoregon.edu/index.cfm?mode=about>
- **Resources for assistance and incentives**
  - League of Cities for education/ outreach (*Ruth Randleman*)
  - Additional levy for communities to gather funding for planning? (*Rick Hunsaker*)
  - Grant money (*Ruth Randleman*)
  - Employ COGs to help small communities with technical assistance (*Rep. Donovan Olson*)
  - SRF Funds will soon make applicants eligible for sponsored projects (*Wayne Peterson*)
    - If a community took out a loan for a plan upgrade, funds would pay off principle and allow interest to stay in the community
- **Disincentives**
  - Limitations on the ability to get certain types of funding from existing programs- Most states that have this also have mandatory planning (*Gary Taylor*)
  - Tie funding for upgrade projects (infrastructure) to having a comprehensive plan (*Les Beck*)
  - Conditioning local powers on planning- like ability to use TIF districts (*Charles Connerly*)
- **Things to Consider**

- What is the minimum definition of a comprehensive plan that will be required to receive funding/assistance? (*Pamela Myhre*)
  - What is the end product?
  - State law needs to define what a comprehensive plan is (*Charles Connerly*)
  - Different model levels for eligibility?
  - Fill in the blank guidance for smaller communities to start with?
- Do we need to consider requiring communities to adopt building codes? (*Stuart Crine*)
- Should we look at reinstating something similar to Community Builder Plans?
- How do we “enforce” any standards set? (*Rick Hunsaker*)
  - Simplicity
  - Self-enforcement? (*Rep. Donovan Olson*)
- **Next Steps/Recommendations**
  - Make current state regulations regarding the built environment consistent; then possibly add conditions of planning for current programs (*Rep. Donovan Olson*)
  - Evaluate what incentives already exist or what programs and funding sources can be modified to provide planning money- possibly at IDED? (*Jessica Harder*)
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- **Local Comprehensive Planning Grant Program** (*Aaron Todd*)
  - [http://rio.iowa.gov/smart\\_planning/index.html](http://rio.iowa.gov/smart_planning/index.html)
  - \$1 million through HUD-CDBG for up to \$50,000 for local entities in the 85 disaster declared counties to create comprehensive plans that are in line with the Iowa Smart Planning principles

## VI. Workgroup Sessions

[See Workgroup Reports]

## VII. Workgroup Report-Outs

- **Workgroup C Summary** (*Les Beck*)
  - What is meant by goals?
  - Goals need to be measurable
  - Structure of goals
    - 10 Principles vs. Broader Goals?
  - Next Steps
    - Evaluate other states
    - Craft measurable goals

- Bring in experts and presenters
- **Workgroup D (*Rick Hunsaker*)**
  - What is a region?
    - Watershed?
    - COG Boundary?
  - How does a region come together to create a plan?
  - What are the elements of a regional plan?
  - Next Steps
    - What other elements need to be included?
    - How does it relate to local plans?

### **VIII. Closing Remarks**

A common theme in both workgroups and the committee seemed to be multijurisdictional planning. In this light, the committee should consider having a presenter on multijurisdictional cooperation.

It was also emphasized that the committee needs to take this opportunity to make good, strong recommendations for the tasks given. (*Rep. Donovan Olson*)

### **IX. Next Meeting**

**July 29<sup>th</sup> 10:00-2:30 (College of Design, ISU Campus)**